COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

if a terminal of a packet-switched cellular network estimates that a combined bit count of a voice sample and a header field of a voice packet exceeds an available transmission capacity of a transmission channel allocated to the terminal, then the terminal reduces a number of bits in the voice sample or steals at least one whole voice block; and

the terminal uses the reduced voice sample bits for transmitting the header field data of the same packet, wherein the voice sample and the header field are transmitted in real time in the transmission channel.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1 wherein the reduction of the number of bits in the voice sample is performed only for packets transmitted at the beginning of a speech spurt.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2 wherein a voice sample replacement is performed when no more than 500 ms have passed from a first voice activity detection included in the same speech spurt.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1 wherein the reduction of the number of bits in the voice sample is performed by replacing the contents of a voice packet with a NO_DATA block.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal comprising:

a means for reducing a number of bits in a voice sample included in a packet to be transmitted and

a means for using said reduced bits of the voice sample for transmitting header field data of the same packet in a digital packet-switched cellular network.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal according to claim 5 wherein the means for reducing the number of bits in the voice sample included in the packet to be transmitted and means for using saved bits for transmitting header field data of the same packet comprise:

a voice coder for converting the voice sample into a bit combination and for producing a voice activity detection indication,

a bit rate and frame count calculation block for calculating the combined bit count for bits in the bit combination transmitted in the packet and bits in the header field after the voice activity detection indication,

a frame stealing decision block for making a frame stealing decision based on the calculation result from the bit rate and frame count calculation block, and

a real time protocol block generation and frame stealing block for replacing in the packet to be transmitted, subsequent to the frame stealing decision, bits in the bit combination produced from the voice sample.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal according to claim 5 which comprises a means for reducing the number of bits in the voice sample only for packets transmitted at the beginning of a speech spurt.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal according to claim 7 wherein the means for reducing a number of bits in the voice sample are arranged so as to perform a replacement when no more than 500 ms have passed from a first voice activity detection included in the same speech spurt.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal according to claim 5 wherein the means for reducing the number of bits in the voice sample, a bit rate and frame count calculation block is configured so as to replace the contents of the voice packet with a NO_DATA block.

10. (CANCELED).

11. (CANCELED).

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium comprising computer readable code for implementing the steps of claim 1 when installed in the terminal of the packet-switched cellular network.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium comprising computer readable code for implementing the steps of claim 2 when installed in the terminal of the packet-switched cellular network.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium comprising computer readable

code for implementing the steps of claim 3 when installed in the terminal of the packet-switched cellular network.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium comprising computer readable code for implementing the steps of claim 4 when installed in the terminal of the packet-switched cellular network.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A terminal comprising:

a controller for processing an algorithm for reducing a number of bits in a voice sample included in a packet to be transmitted and using the reduced bits of the voice sample for transmitting header field data in the packet, the terminal configured to transmit the packet in a digital packet-switched cellular network.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal of claim 16, further comprising a memory for storing and retrieving the algorithm.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal of claim 17, the controller comprising a voice coder for converting the voice sample into a bit combination and for producing a voice activity detection indication; a bit rate and frame count calculation block for calculating the combined bit count for bits in the header field after the voice activity detection indication; a frame stealing decision block for making a frame stealing decision based on the calculation result from the bit rate and frame count calculation block; and a real time protocol block generation and frame stealing block for replacing in the packet to be transmitted, subsequent to the frame stealing decision, bits in the bit combination produced from the voice sample.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal of claim 18, the controller arranged to reduce the number of bits in the voice sample only for packets transmitted at the beginning of a speech spurt.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal of claim 19, further comprising a user interface for entering data that is provided to the controller and a transmitter through which the packets are transmitted.